

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully solicited.

Claims 1, 3 through 10, and 12 through 17 are pending, with Claims 1, 6, 10, and 14 being independent. Claims 1, 3 through 6, 8 through 10, 12 through 14, 16, and 17 have been amended.

Claims 1, 3 through 10, and 12 through 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 over US 2001/0055473 A1 (Tauchi, et al.). All rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claims 1 and 10 recite, *inter alia*, that the sync data for the standard definition image signal has a different sync pattern from the sync data for the high definition image signal so that the encoding method of an image signal recorded on a recording medium is discriminated by the sync data, and that ID data is for discriminating each of the plurality of blocks.

Claims 6 and 14 recite, *inter alia*, sync data having different sync patterns according to the encoding method of the encoded image data, and ID data for discriminating each of the plurality of sync blocks, with discrimination of encoding method based on the sync pattern of the detected sync data.

However, Applicant respectfully submits that Tauchi, et al. fails to disclose or suggest at least the above-discussed claimed features as recited, *inter alia*, in Claims 1, 6, 10, and 14. Applicant respectfully submits that Tauchi, et al. shows, e.g., using SYNC and ID (e.g., Figs. 7 and 8), and shows switching a switch 46 in accordance with identification information included in the ID, which provides neither a description nor a suggestion of at least the above-discussed claimed features where the sync data has a different pattern as claimed.

Applicant further respectfully submits that there has been no showing of any indication of motivation in the cited document that would lead one having ordinary skill in the art to arrive at such features.

The dependent claims are also submitted to be patentable because they set forth additional aspects of the present invention and are dependent from independent claims discussed above. Therefore, separate and individual consideration of each dependent claim is respectfully requested.

REQUEST FOR ENTRY OF AMENDMENT

This Amendment After Final Rejection is an earnest attempt to advance prosecution and reduce the number of issues, and is believed to clearly place this application in condition for allowance. Furthermore, Applicant respectfully submits that a full appreciation of these amendments will not require undue time or effort given the Examiner's familiarity with this application. Moreover, this Amendment was not earlier presented because Applicant earnestly believed that the prior Amendment placed the subject application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, entry of this Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Applicant submits that this application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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